

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** An interference pigment having a mass tone, which comprises a flake-form substrate with successive coatings of:

- (A) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n > 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (B) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n \leq 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 10 – 100 nm,
- (C) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n > 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (D) an absorbent layer having a layer thickness of 1 – 100 nm, which comprises at least one: ~~metal oxide, metal sulfide,~~ metal telluride, ~~metal selenide,~~ metal lanthanide, metal phosphate, metal actinide, titanium oxynitride or titanium nitride, or a mixture of two or more of the above,

and, optionally,

- (E) an outer protective layer.

**2. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is natural or synthetic mica, glass flake,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  flake,  $\text{SiO}_2$  flake or  $\text{TiO}_2$  flake, or a mixture thereof.

**3. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) consists of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$  or  $\text{BiOCl}$ .

**4. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (A) consists of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$  or  $\text{BiOCl}$ .

**5. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (B) consists of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$ ,  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  or  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , or mixtures thereof.

6. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (B) consists of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$ ,  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  or  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , or mixtures thereof.

7. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (B) consists of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{AlO}(\text{OH})$ ,  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  or  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , or mixtures thereof.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Currently Amended)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$ , a molybdenum oxide,  $\text{CoO}$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{VO}_2$ ,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NiO}$ ,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{CuO}$ ,  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$ ,  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{MoS}_2$ ,  $\text{WS}_2$ , a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

14. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

15. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 13, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) consist of  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

16. **(Original)** A process for producing an interference pigment according to

claim 1, which comprises coating the flake-form substrate by a wet-chemical method of hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous medium or by a CVD or PVD process.

**17. (Original)** A paint, coating, printing ink, plastic, ceramic, glass, cosmetic, or laser markable composition comprising a pigment of claim 1.

**18. (Currently Amended)** A pigment composition comprising one or more binders and one or more interference pigments according to claim 1.

**19. (Original)** A dry preparation comprising an interference pigment according to claim 1.

**20. (Original)** A dry preparation of claim 19, in the form of pellets, granules, chips or briquettes.

**21. (Previously presented)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is a mixture of different substrate materials or a mixture of identical substrate materials with different particle sizes.

**22. (New)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 1 to 50 nm.

**23. (New)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 5 to 20 nm.